

MINNESOTA

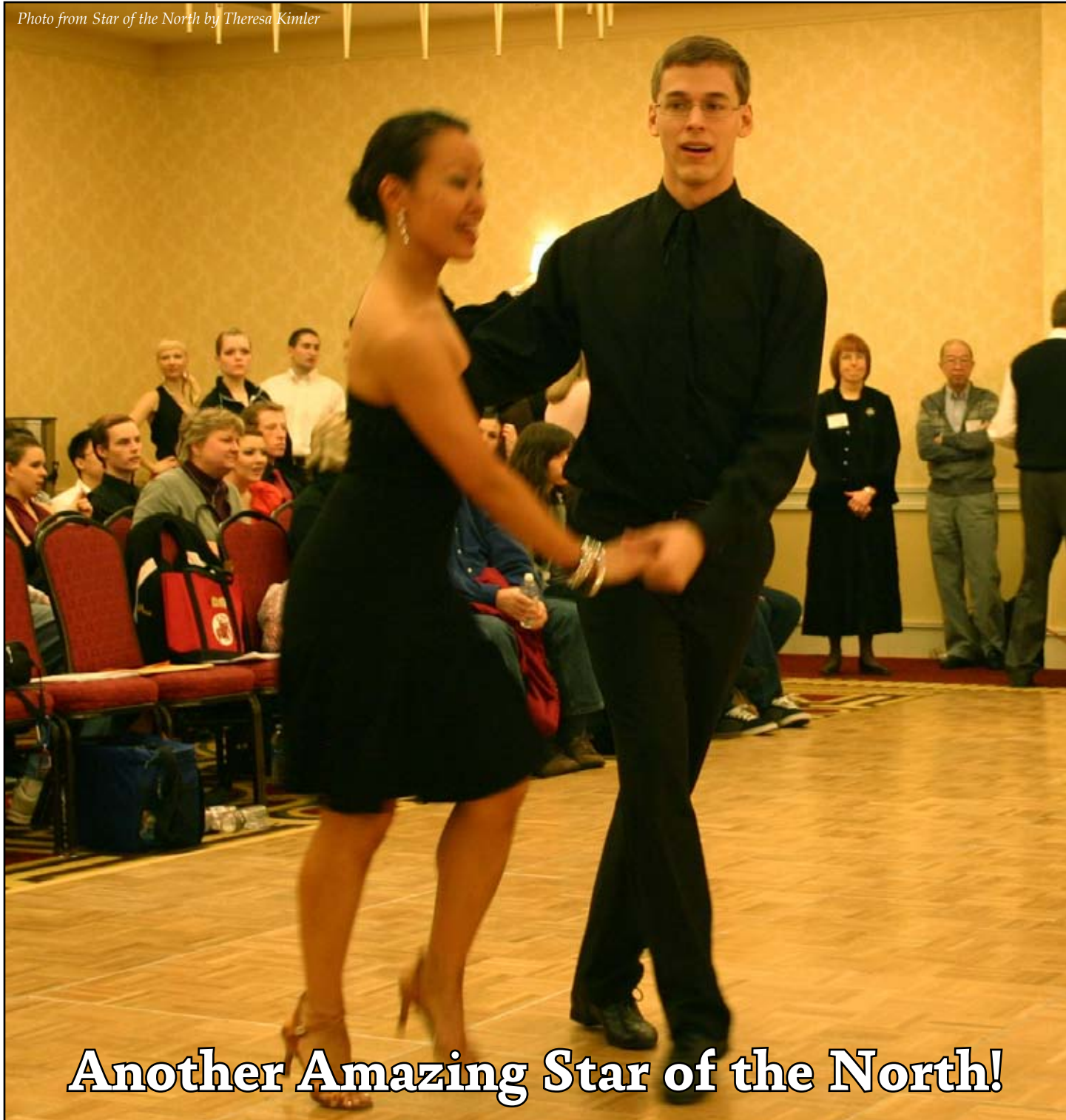
DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

March 2012

Photo from Star of the North by Theresa Kimler



Another Amazing Star of the North!

Inside this month's issue...

Photos and Stories from the 2012 Star of the North DanceSport Classic, and more!

Join us for the USADance

March Monthly Dance

Saturday, March 17th

7-8 pm Foxtrot Lesson
Instructor: Jeff Nehrbass

8-11 pm Variety Dance
Music DJ: Andy Trawick

\$7 USADance members ■ \$10 non-members
(Become a USA Dance-MN member tonight and get in free!)

Hotline: (651) 483-5467
Email: info@usadance-mn.org
Web: www.usadance-mn.org

Theme: Minnesota Food Share

Please bring non perishable food to go to the
North Minneapolis Food Shelf.

Retro Ballroom

5810 West 36th Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467
www.usadance-mn.org

Call for information on dance events.
Leave a message for membership information.

Dancers' Night Out

- Fri 3/2 - Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance; Cinema Ballroom 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; Lesson at 7:00, dance 8-11; 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com
- Sat 3/3 - Linden Hills Dancing Club Variety Dance; Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 4901 Chowen Avenue South Mpls; Lesson at 6:30, catered dinner 7:30-8:30, dance 8:30-10:30; \$35 per couple; advanced reservations required; call 952 412 7230 or visit www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org
- Sat 3/10 - Aqua Gliders Monthly Dance; St Richards Social Hall, 7540 Penn Ave South, Richfield; West Coast Swing lesson at 7:30, dance at 8:45; \$25 per couple (non-members)
- Sat 3/10 - Champion Ballroom Variety Dance; Champion Ballroom 5315 Lyndale Ave Mpls; Rumba lesson at 8:00, dance 8:30-11:00; \$10/person; free parking; visit www.championballroomdance.com
- Fri 3/16 - Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance; Cinema Ballroom 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; Lesson at 7:00, dance 8-11; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com
- Sat 3/17 - **USA Dance Ballroom Dance Party; Retro Ballroom, Saint Paul, MN; USA Dance Ballroom Dance Party 7-8 p.m. Foxtrot Lesson Instructor: Jeff Nehrbass 8-11 p.m. Variety Dance \$10, \$7 members**
- Sat 3/17 - White Sidewalls; Medina Entertainment Center 500 Hwy 55, Medina; Lesson at 7:00; \$12; call 763-478-6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com
- Sat 3/17 - Champion Ballroom Salsa Dance; Champion Ballroom 5315 Lyndale Ave Mpls; Music by Salsa del Soul Latin Orchestra; Salso/Bachata lesson at 8:30, dance 9:00-midnight; \$10/person; free parking; visit www.championballroomdance.com
- Fri 3/23 - Salsa Fusion; Cinema Ballroom 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; Lesson at 7:00, dance 8-11; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com
- Sat 3/24 - Champion Ballroom Swing Dance; Champion Ballroom 5315 Lyndale Ave Mpls; East Coast Swing lesson at 8:00, dance 8:30-11:30; \$10/person, free parking; visit www.championballroomdance.com

American Classic Ballroom.....(952) 934-0900
www.americanclassdance.com, 550 Market St., Chanhassen, MN 55317 (494 west to Hwy 5, right on Market Blvd, right on Market St.)

Arthur Murray Dance Studio.....(651) 227-3200
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar..... (651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance from 8-11 pm/\$3.

Blue Moon Ballroom.....(507) 288-0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.net 2030 Hwy 14, East Rochester, MN; Fridays: Latin Night, 7:30 pm - 12:30 am; Saturdays: Live Bands!

Cafe Bailar Dance Club..... www.cafebailar.com
2nd Saturdays at Tropical Bllrm, Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125. 4th Saturdays at Retro Bllrm, 5810 W 36th St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Lesson 7:30-8:30 pm. Dance 8:30-12 am. \$10, or \$8 members. Membership \$20/yr. www.cafebailar.com or tricia@cafebailar.com

Cheek to Cheek Ballroom.....(763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids. Harry Benson.



Photo from Star of the North by Theresa Kimler. Check out the special feature: a color spread from Star of the North starting on page 15!

USA Dance – MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 Board Minutes - Newsletter

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Sue Zeller (President), Cathy Dessert (Vice President), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Zhuojing Liu, Mike Jones, Yeun Chou, Julie Elholm, Corissa Ranum, Jessica Madson

Location: Marriott West, 9960 Wayzata Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55426

Call to Order: Quorum established. Agenda approved. January minutes approved.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

A detailed treasurer's report was distributed. Thank you, Jane.

PROJECTS

Improving the Quality of Ballroom Dance

The board continues to work on a project to offer the opportunity for Chapter #2011 members and non-members, students, beginning and more advanced dancers to participate in free lesson/dance events on Sunday afternoons.

Star of the North

Jessica has finalized plans for this event. She distributed a planning overview detailing registration, ticket, marketing, location, scholarship, and personnel updates. Thank you, Jessica, and please plan on attending.

Dance Floor

Sue, Jane, and Gary will meet to discuss the rental and ownership of the dance floor.

Monthly Dances

Yeun will contact James at Tropical Ballroom to inquire about returning to Tropical for monthly dances.

Next Meeting:

6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 6th, 2012

Quixotic Coffee
769 Cleveland Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance MN, was formed in 1991.

Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. There are several categories to choose from: Social, Competitor, Junior (17 and under), Collegiate, and Associate (professional/instructor).

USA Dance MN sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members are entitled to discounts on admission to the monthly dances, as well as access to a great network for meeting other dancers.

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meeting many new friends. For more information, call the USA Dance MN HOTLINE: 651-483-5467.

The Minnesota Dancing Times is published monthly by the members of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance, providing information and news of ballroom dancing to members and friends.

Editor: Mary Beth Beckman (612) 424-2228
Design/Layout: Nic Westlake (612) 412-1112
Copy Editor: Mike Youngdahl (763) 441-0646
Marketing/Ads: Suzi Blumberg (612) 869-4416
Mailing: Committee member

Contributors: Darcy Adamczyk, Amy Anderson, Mary Beth Beckman, Suzi Blumberg, Paul Botes, Kate Bratt, Kristie Brennerd, Bill Dessert, Cathy Dessert, Elizabeth Dickinson, Jan Dobies-Hein, Donna Edelstein, Marty Faeh, Bernt Grotberg, Deanna Grotberg, Cindy Guy, Theresa Kimler, Lester Martin, Luther College Competitive Ballroom Team, Sally More, Jack Munday, Deborah J. Nelson, Stephanie Sedarski, Corinne Standish, Justin Sundberg, Chris Trask, Sue Zeller

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, and content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to: newsletter@usadance-mn.org.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Theresa Kimler, 7050 49th St. N, St. Paul, MN 55128 ■

Inside the Times

| | |
|---|-------|
| Dancers' Night Out | 2 |
| USA Dance MN Board Meeting Minutes | 3 |
| From the Editor | 4 |
| The President's Corner | 5 |
| Enter our Photo Competition! | 5 |
| My First Amateur Competition | 6 |
| Luther Loves Star of the North | 8 |
| Dancing with Dad | 8 |
| Star of the North, a Retrospective | 10 |
| Beyond Ballroom Dance Company - 2012 | 11 |
| Photo Competition Winners | 12 |
| In Memoriam - Ron Sterenson | 13 |
| Reflections on the Costa Rica Open | 14 |
| My Star of the North Adventure | 14 |
| Special Feature: Star of the North Photos | 15-18 |
| Risk and Balance | 19 |
| Stardust Dance Cruise | 20 |
| Tips for Flattering Ballroom Costumes | 21 |
| Danceland: Chapter 14 | 22 |
| Gentlemen Lead | 26 |
| Competition Calendar | 27 |
| Dancing and Commitment | 24 |
| Ask Dr. Dance | 29 |
| Swaplines | 30 |
| Dance Contacts | 31 |

Enter our Photo Competition!

Details on page 5

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (300 dpi pdf or jpeg format ONLY) or camera-ready artwork to Suzi Blumberg (email: suzi.b@usfamily.net phone: 612-869-4416) along with payment to USA Dance MN. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be typeset or designed for a small fee; contact Janie. Payment to accompany ad.

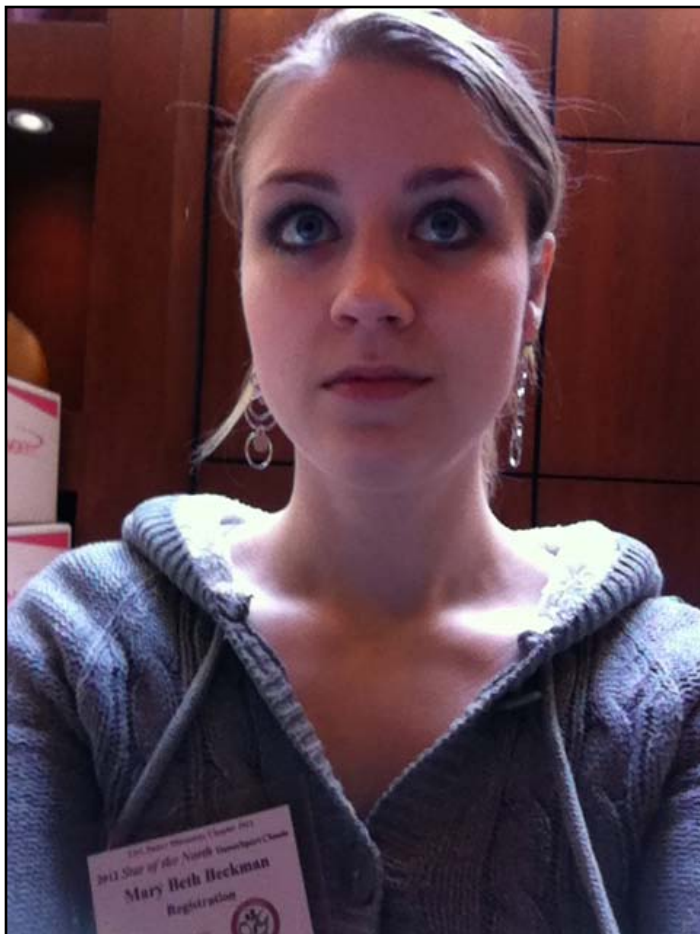
Full page 7.5" wide x 10" high \$130
Half page 7.5" wide x 4.75" high \$80
OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high
Qtr. page 3.5" wide x 4.75" high \$60
Business Card 3 consecutive months \$50

SWAPLINE ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only). Send to: newsletter@usadance-mn.org

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH

From the Editor

by Mary Beth Beckman



If you were at Star of the North this year, this was the face that probably greeted you: exhausted but overall cheerful. Also belonging to me.

If you didn't already know, I was the registrar this year, a volunteer position which basically entailed a lot of tedious data entry (which I love), a lot of emailing to solve problems (which I'm ambivalent about), and a lot of sitting in one place for a whole weekend (which I'm not such a big fan of, but needs must). Since my brain is still not so much on the functional side of things and still on the frantically accomplishing tasks and greeting people side of things, I'll give you snapshots of what the event looked like to me this year.

It starts and ends with a table, and there's a table pretty much the whole time. This table is the registration table, and I am sitting behind it with warrior woman Jane Phipps who knows not the incapacitating sting of exhaustion. Where I needed to sneak naps beneath said table (true story), she prevailed as Treasurer Extraordinaire, ready to sell tickets and write names on scholarship checks at a moment's notice. Where I became queasy and faint, she merely told writer's cramp who was boss and carried on. Kudos, Jane. You're an inspiration to us all. Or, you know, at least to me.

I met all kinds of people at my end of the table. College students, senior citizens, six-year-old Latin dancers. People were consistently shocked that I could remember full names and spell them all without looking (I've got

you covered, Katelynn Richman). I finally met Jeremy Anderson in person. Craig Hagensick and I chatted about all kinds of things, from technological advancement to the benefits of a punchcardless workplace to how judges judge. Nels Petersen gave me the best 30-second massage of my life. Leland Whitney charmed me (duh). My awesome mother delivered nutrient-dense organic food. Reuben Van Hemert delivered me other food. George Chao practiced in front of me in Peter Westlake's dance clothes and looked super dashing. Mark Salzman sat by me at various times being generally good-natured and adorable and perhaps giving me electrical tape that doesn't belong to me (shh...). Bailee Krull ate an apple in the chair next to me and messed up her lipstick. I learned that Gene Bersten's smile means trouble and that it is utterly irresistible. Cathy Dessert is perpetually well dressed and has the prettiest hair ever. I felt all warm and fuzzy every time someone came to the table at the end of the day and thanked us for such a great event. Really, that was the best part. That's why volunteers do it, I suppose.

I did leave the table for a few minutes here and there. I ran into Linh Dao getting smeared with fake tanner in the bathroom. (Did I ruin the mystery? She's gorgeous no matter what, and I saw her and Zjen Thak Chua's Latin. Yow!) I delivered carrot apple juice to Nic Westlake, which may have been unkind, as he was not able to take a bathroom break ... at all. I ran into Kate Bratt at Caribou and fangirled over how great she looked. (Seriously, she looked awesome.)

I managed to catch all of the Saturday evening open events, and I loved it. Overall impressions: Shinya McHenry is an MC god. No, seriously. You try sounding chipper and excited at the end of an 16-hour day. Yeah, yeah, Alan Bersten is the (young!) man of every girl's dreams. Emilia's not too shabby, either. Gene and Elena's students know how to work it! Jeremy Anderson and Yuko Taniguchi are *extremely* loved, and they totally deserve it. Leland and Leslie Whitney are the most fit people on the floor. Four rounds in a row and they still danced beautifully. Theresa Kimler is probably the most graceful woman I've ever met—those legs.

When you're not competing and you're not spectating (much), an event has an entirely different kind of effect on you. What you remember aren't anxieties or astonishments. You simply remember moments that were colorful for some reason or another. I remember Yeun Chou and Craig Hagensick talking quietly as I curled up under a table using my jacket as a pillow. I wonder what all the other amazing volunteers have taken home from this weekend.

If this reads like a LiveJournal entry from the early '90s, cut me some slack. It was a very full weekend. We're running more Star of the North next month, so do me a favor: let me know how you remember Star of the North 2012. ■

The President's Corner



Improving the Quality of Ballroom Dance

In the past, our USA Dance Minnesota chapter has offered low-cost or even free lessons in order to help others get involved in ballroom dance. This year we are bringing a stronger focus once again to improving the quality of ballroom dance in the Twin Cities metro area.

Starting this month, we will be hosting quality ballroom dance instruction using the American style dance syllabus. Every month, a different style of dance will be taught by a different instructor. By the end of the month, those taking lessons will have a very good feeling for the dance style they have just learned and practiced.

The classes will be on Sunday afternoons starting at 2:00 p.m. The classes will be either 45 minutes or one hour in length. There will be also some time available following the lessons to practice. The nine American styles of dances will be taught: bolero, cha cha, foxtrot, mambo, rumba, swing, tango, viennese waltz, and waltz.

In the month of March, the lessons will be at Dancers Studio. The dance style covered each Sunday in March will

be cha cha. Each month, we will have lessons at a different dance studio in the metro area. Every month, we will be letting you know the dance style, the professional instructor, and the dance studio location.

All of these lessons are free.

Please pass on the information about this quality dance instruction to those you know—family, friends, coworkers, etc. I'm certain that this will give many people the opportunity to begin a new level of dancing, improving their dancing by receiving or renewing knowledge of the American style dance syllabus.

Star of the North last month was such an outstanding amateur competition! Thank you to Jessica Madson, Star of the North Chair, and all of the volunteers. This event would not have been possible without you. Also, thank you to all of the the competitors who participated, bringing out their best for this completion.

It's so fun for me watching our USA Dance Minnesota chapter become a more involved chapter. This is starting to look more like the USA Dance Minneosta chapter I remember from when I first started dancing and taking lessons. It is exciting to think about our chapter growing with some more dancers joining in the fun.

Happy dancing!

Sue Zeller ■

Dancing Times Photo Competition

If you love combining the arts of photography and dancing, submit your best photo to the Dancing Times photo competition!

Photos must be taken at a USA Dance monthly dance, must feature dancing as the subject material, and must be high quality (in focus, good lighting, clear subject) and high resolution—we print at 300 dpi.

Not only could you win free admission to the next USA Dance monthly dance event, but your beautiful photo might be featured in the next issue of the Minnesota Dancing Times!

So get out your cameras and your dancing shoes, and have a blast at the next monthly dance!

Submit photos of our March dance (see the ad on page 2) to newsletter@usadance-mn.org by March 20. ■

See the latest winners on page 12!



My Very First Amateur Competition Experience

Star of the North 2012

By Marty Faeh



For most of my life, I was told I could not dance, so at some point, I just stopped trying. Then, not all that long ago, I walked into a dance studio for an introductory dance lesson. I was filled with fear. My face was red, my heart racing, and this instructor walked up to me with a big smile and said, "Hello, I will be your instructor today." In a panic, I bolted for the door. It was cold and a blizzard outside, but this instructor calmly reached through the door, took my hand, and said, "I will teach you to dance!"

Two years later, I have standard, smooth, and rhythm under my belt, and words will never be able to express the gratitude and thanks I have for my instructor and pro/am partner, Kristina Lee, along with Cinema Ballroom, my second home. They have guided me one step at a time, overcoming many obstacles along the way, inspiring me to be the best dancer I can be.

A while back, I started asking around about amateur dance opportunities. Within a day or so, my path crossed with Cathy Dessert. She introduced me to USA Dance, and we excitedly started discussing dance. She suggested we do a rumba at Star of the North. I didn't hesitate and said, "Let's go for it."

So here you have two competitive spirits, both smooth dancers, wanting to do a rumba for my first entry in an amateur competition. Very quickly, the two of us redefined the word "fun," and that will be a story for another time. Special thanks to professional instructors Eric Hudson and

Kristina Lee for getting us in rhythm competition mode in a matter of hours.

It was now competition day. Star of the North. Wow! I was so excited.

The drive was mostly freeway and the Marriott was easy to find with a large parking lot. I walked in, the energy was high, people of all ages pacing the hallways with garment bags, vendors setting up tables, and pleasant volunteers greeting dancers with a warm smile and saying, "Hello, welcome to Star of the North." What a treat. No stress. I found and learned everything I needed to know with ease, and just sat back and enjoyed a nice cup of java from the Caribou Coffee in the lobby as I watched all of the dancers arriving.

After watching many talented dancers throughout the morning, it was our turn. Being in the senior II division and doing a rumba, I didn't think too much about the possibility that we could be on the floor with very few competing couples or even solo, and the nerves started to kick in. We ended up in both scenarios: one round with other couples and one round just Cathy and me. My passion for dance kicked in, and we just danced for fun with big smiles, just enjoying the moment and entertaining a wonderful and warm audience. It was over before it started, but what a great experience, and we walked off of the dance floor very pleased with our performances.

I remained for the rest of the day, attended a few great dance workshops, enjoyed a red ale along with a great tomato soup and grilled cheese at Kip's Pub and Restaurant. Day one came to a close, and I left with memories for a lifetime.

Day two, my phone rang. It was my amateur partner. She suggested I come back in the afternoon and watch the standard dancers. It didn't take much persuasion, so I hopped in the car and headed back for another fun day of dancing at Star of the North.

I have to chuckle, because later in the afternoon, there was all of this chatter about Jack and Jill. I had no clue. The announcer said, "Gentlemen competitors form a circle around the dance floor. Women competitors form a circle on the inside of the dance floor." I still had no clue what a Jack and Jill was. There was some discussion going on as the dance floor circles started coming together and the announcer stated, "We have a minor problem. We have more women than men and need ten more male dancers from the audience to help out."

I was looking around, not a guy in sight in my section. I was thinking to myself, "I am in jeans and sneakers. I have not danced today, and I have no clue what a Jack and Jill is. Nope, I am not budging." Then, the announcer said, "We still need five more men." Well, it didn't take long for my amateur partner and one of her gal pals to come over and prod me onto the dance floor. I had no clue what was about to happen. I walked out with a smile and said to myself, "Okay, I can do this."

Let me tell you, it didn't take me long to figure out what a Jack and Jill was. What a blast. I was blessed to get a tap on the arm in the very first round, and my partner said, "Let's go," grabbing my hand, excitedly pulling me off of the dance floor. I forgot about the fact that I was in jeans and sneakers, I was dancing with partners I had never seen before, and judges were walking next to me on a floor so crowded it was a challenge to take a step. I made the first cut in all four dances and took third place in the waltz, sneakers and all. I had the time of my life out there and accumulated memories that will be with me forever.

Thank you to USA Dance, the volunteers, the judges, the participants, my instructor Kristina Lee, my second home Cinema Ballroom, and, most especially, Cathy Dessert for introducing me to the world of amateur competition and Star of the North. ■

Do you need computer help?

- * Security: Computer, Network, Personal Data
- * Organizing: E-mail, Contacts, Documents, Photos
- * Making sense of the Internet
- * Technical Support



www.DigitalWithAndy.com

Digital with Andy LLC

Call 651.224.0138 and ask for Andy

www.chuckhartell.com

Your Professional Realtor for Life



763-295-0912

*Serving over 1000 clients in
25+ years of real estate service*

Cheek to Cheek

Ballroom Dance Studio

Quality Private Lesson: by appointment
Group Lessons: Monday-Thursday
Friday Night Lesson and Dance Party

Life is sweet when you're dancing
Cheek to Cheek!



11415 Foley Boulevard NW; Coon Rapids, MN 55458
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com; 763-755-3644

Ballroom Dance Shoppe



Featuring
**Celebrity
Dance
Shoes**

*Handmade
in the USA*

Alla Kocherga
Leo Rotenberg

Minnesota's Largest Selection of Ballroom & Special Occasion Shoes

CALL FOR STORE HOURS

763-541-9177

3403 Kilmer Lane No - Plymouth, MN 55441
e-mail: sales-info@ballroomdanceshoppe.com
web: www.ballroomdanceshoppe.com

Luther Loves Star of the North!

Submitted by the Luther College Competitive Ballroom Team

This has been the second year that Luther College's competitive ballroom team has participated in Star of the North DanceSport Classic. Just like last year, we enjoyed being a part of such a wonderful event and had an amazing time competing with so many other talented collegiate teams. Having only competed once before, our team greatly appreciated the warm welcome from the other dancers and event coordinators. The hospitality we have received when attending this event is just one of the many reasons why we love being a part of Star of the North. Being a team of 60

dancers, many of whom are first-time competitors, we feel as though we performed well and enthusiastically, and we would love to be a part of next year's games!

We would like to extend our great thanks to two people who were instrumental in Luther's participation in this competition. First, to April Dahl, our talented and supportive coach who tirelessly commuted from Rochester to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa multiple times throughout these past two years. April has provided our team with the dance knowledge and skill that has allowed us to excel far beyond what we previously expected. We would also like to thank Nels Petersen for his generous support of our very young ballroom team. Nels has given our team the opportunity to pursue ballroom dancing on a level that otherwise would not have been financially feasible. ■



Dancing with Dad

By Darcy Adamczyk

Imagine living every little girl's dream - dancing with her father. I got to live that dream at Star of the North DanceSport Classic 2012. I had the wonderful opportunity to dance mixed proficiency in the bronze smooth division with my father.

I have danced in a number of pro/am competitions with my instructor Gary Dahl. Dancing mixed proficiency gave me the unusual opportunity to act in some ways as the "pro," since for a change I was not the one being judged. This took the pressure off of worrying so much about my performance but added the interesting challenge of wanting to show off my partner in the best light. My pseudo-pro status also provided me with a chance to do some teaching, and as anyone who has had to teach someone else knows,

you really learn what you know if you have to teach it to someone else. Our teacher April Dahl was able to provide all kinds of tips and tricks.

Training for a competition requires finding practice time and sometimes space, which can be quite a challenge, particularly since my dad lives in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. This was solved by my father coming to Rochester on Sunday afternoons, and we would go to the Rochester Athletic Club. The basketball courts make a great dance floor. Of course, we got a number of strange looks as we waltzed and foxtrotted across the court, but, hey, we got to dance.

Finally the hour came. This time I took to the competition floor not on the arm of my teacher but on my father's arm. It is true that time can stand still and fly by at the same time. Before I knew it, we had danced our heats and the moment was over. Although I can only speak for myself, it was an experience I will never forget. ■



U of M Ballroom Dance Club and
USA Dance present a black tie affair

A Night With The Stars

Saturday April 21st 7-11pm

\$12 for students and USA Dance members

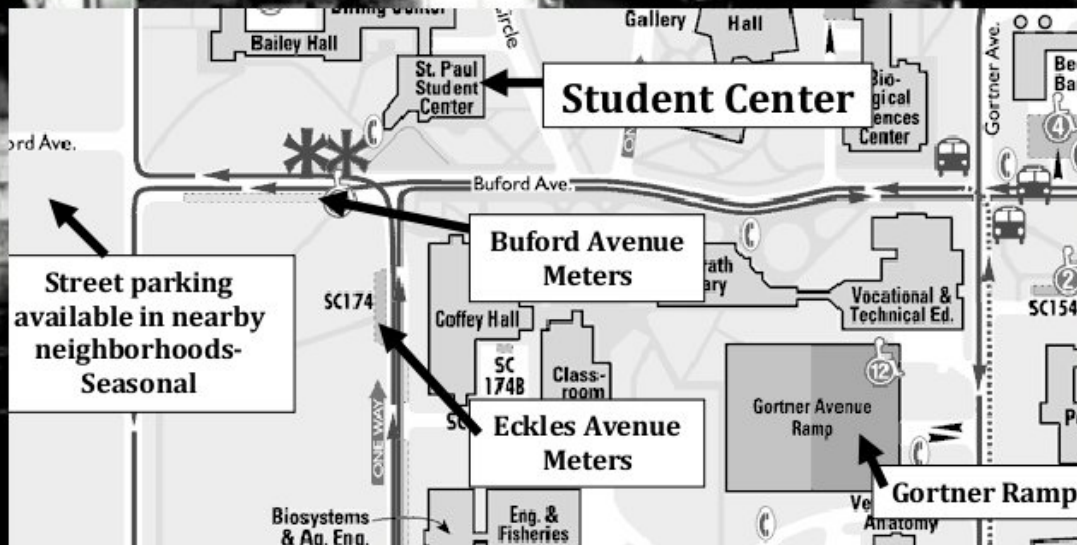
\$15 for non-students

North Star Ballroom

St. Paul Student Center, 2nd Floor

2017 Buford Ave, St Paul, MN

Free parking in Gortner Ramp for USA Dance members



Hosted by USA Dance MN



RECREATIONSPORTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Stardust Dance Cruise Is a Great Experience

By Suzi Blumberg



A dance cruise is a wonderful way for dancers to go cruising. Dorothy Jones, Elaine Prebonich, and I left the snowy cold Twin Cities on January 21st for the 5th Stardust Dance Cruise. We flew to San Juan and boarded the Royal Caribbean Adventure of the Seas. We were off on a wonderful, fun-filled seven-night adventure of dance lessons, social dancing, island hopping, and mountains of delicious food.

This Stardust Dance Cruise promised 48 hours of dance workshops and 40 hours of social dancing, along with stops at St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Aruba, and Curacao. We attended a few of the lessons, all of the afternoon and evening social dances, and we had a grand time.

There were 220 people in the dance group. The music was wonderful, and there were plenty of wonderful dance hosts to dance with and great people to meet.

Stardust Dance Company is 22 years old. It was started by Len Moss, and Linda Gilbert joined the company in 2007. Up until that time, there were only four Catskill Resort Dance Weekends per year. Linda began the dance cruises and this year added a New Year's dance party in New Jersey. She is very particular about how much dance space the cruise ship has, and she requires a lot. We had plenty! Our lessons were on the large stage of the theater or in a private room with a large dance floor. Evening dances were in the health club that had a great floor once Linda's staff moved all the machines off of it. They got the whole process down to only 15 minutes.

All Stardust Dance events sell out four months before they take place. People come from all over the world, including groups from Japan, Alaska, and Russia. Elaine has been on the Stardust Weekends at the Catskill Mountains that take place in early September, and I'm hoping to go this fall. There are 60 hours of workshops and dancing to a live band.

We loved the Stardust Dance Cruise and look forward to the next time! To find information on Stardust Dance events, go to www.stardustdance.com. ■

2012 Star of the North DanceSport Classic *Photos by Theresa Kimler*



Tips for Flattering Ballroom Costumes and Gowns

By Deborah J. Nelson

One of the giveaways that a dress or costume was designed by a nonprofessional is that there are too many focal points or just too many things going on in the garment. Have you heard of the saying, “Everything but the kitchen sink”?

Design features on a flattering and fashionable costume or gown should have visual flow across and down the garment. If you watch the interior design shows on cable, then you’ve heard the word “flow” used with room design. It’s the same principle: visually, your eye should start at a pleasing feature, and then flow around the room—or down and across the body—to secondary pleasing features. Your eye shouldn’t jump from one feature to the next to the next in a totally random fashion. Just as you don’t want too many distinct features in your room to distract you from the overall look of a nicely designed interior, so it is with a costume. You want *some* pop, but not *pop, pop, pop* everywhere!

Generally, the main focal point on a dance costume or gown should be somewhere near the upper bodice to draw attention to your face. After all, you’ve spent some time with your makeup, hair, and jewelry, right? Where should this focal point *not* draw your eye to? Not to your waist or to your crotch. No crotch emphasis for obvious modesty reasons. But no waist emphasis, as generally a woman is not totally thrilled about her waist, but mostly because you want people to see *you*. And “you” is really your face.

Your secondary focal points should emphasize your better physical attributes, and you should avoid any focal points that would emphasize any less desirable areas of your body. Hate your derriere, either because it’s too small or too big? Do *not* place a decorative design on it! Love your legs? Then be sure and incorporate a slit or two, at the very least, to be able to show off your lovely legs.

Visually connect features of your dress or costume with a diagonal pattern. Your eye will naturally drift from one feature to another, starting at the top and working down. Think about this when you are working on designing a costume for yourself or when you are deciding on a special rhinestone pattern for turning your plain gown into a spectacular gown.

One of the biggest mistakes in amateur design is to slap on a belt that stops the visual flow of a garment, and this is even worse if that belt emphasizes a tummy or wide hips. Belts call attention to the location where they are placed. For a secondary focal point, belts can work, but be careful not to block your visual flow by stopping it with a too-large or too-contrasting belt.

In the world of ballroom costume design, the old adage of “less is more” is rarely used. All the frills are so beautiful—beads, rhinestones, ruching, and, of course, feathers and fringe! But it’s a saying worth investigating when you consider your new dress design.

Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, president, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd. Have a costume question for Deborah? Send it to newsletter@usadance-mn.org. ■

Tropical Ballroom Grand Reopening





January's winner:
Justin Sundberg

February's winner:
Corinne Standish



Congratulations to Justin Sundberg, winner of the January photo competition, and Corinne Standish, February's winner!

Justin and Corinne win free admission to the March monthly dance for capturing excellent photos at Dance with Us America on January 21st and Cinema Ballroom on February 18th.

Don't forget to submit your photo from the next monthly dance for a chance to win!

In Memoriam – Ron Sterenson - July 24, 1947- January 5, 2012

By Chris Trask

Ron, 64, of Inver Grove Heights passed away January 5, 2012. Ron had a longtime career as a furniture and lighting sales representative. We all have different passions to nourish our spirits, and Ron's was dance. His motto for life was to find your passion, let go of your fears, and just do it.

I was introduced to Ron by his girlfriend, Karen, for the first time in January last year at a showcase held by Dancers Studio. Ron's enthusiasm was contagious. I found myself excited to discuss with him the fun sport of dancing and enjoyed watching him perform as Groucho Marx in a dance skit with his dance instructor, Bonnie Inveen. Ron researched the character he was to perform and purchased the necessary wardrobe to fit the part. He also found great ways to merge the balance of Pilates and the energy flow from Tai Chi with the dance movements that he and Bonnie choreographed. Ron used his dance performance skits to make people happy and laugh. I was not surprised to find out that at Snow Ball, he was awarded first place for the skit and a trophy for the best skit performance overall.

StarTribune contained beautiful condolences from many long-term friends from his business, dance, and family. They said that Ron:

- Was a dear loyal friend;
- Was incredibly funny and fun to be with;

- Was a dedicated, loving father, brother, friend, and mate;
- Had a zest for life, never losing drive or enthusiasm;
- Listened to what you were saying and made everyone feel so very important;
- Had a positive outlook on life, an inspiration to all;
- Took time to teach, motivate, and make a day fun;
- Gave unconditionally;
- Was very happy and made others happy when he danced.

A very special condolence was from his sweetheart and dance partner, Karen Haarala. It read:

"Ron has been in my life little more than a year. Life will never be the same without him. He had so much enthusiasm, energy, inspiration, and love. The following quote describes him:

'Dance as if no one is watching. Sing as if no one were listening. Love as if you've never been hurt. Live every day as if it were your last.'"

Before he died, Ron and Bonnie were working on a "Sumba" dance skit with Ron as Charlie Chaplin. Pictured are the hat, vest, and cane he was planning to use for the skit. He is practicing his dance steps in heaven for his next performance. Even though we missed his Charlie Chaplin performance on Earth, we will one day see it when we join him in heaven.

We love you, Ron, and cheer you on. ■



Photo donated by Catch A Candid: www.catchacandid.com



Reflections on the Costa Rica Open Dance Festival

For a third consecutive year, I thoroughly enjoyed the Costa Rica Open Dance Festival and the country of Costa Rica. The motto of the country is “*pura vida*,” or pure life, and everything from the remarkable air to the generous and gracious people makes for a most pleasurable and relaxing time. The competition took place in a stunning ballroom and relaxed atmosphere. Day trips to both Pacific and Atlantic coast beaches, with evening dinners in hearing distance of the lapping ocean waves, were memorable experiences. What is more fun than to be with fun-loving ballroom dancers dancing the night away, basking in the sun, eating delicious food, and enjoying healing hot mineral springs? For me, it was a little bit of heaven on earth!

— *Jan Dobies-Hein*

Costa Rica Open Dance Festival: beautiful country, beautiful people, an idyllic place to be, an ideal place for a dance competition. This was my third year participating, and I continue to learn about myself, my fellow dancers, the Costa Rican culture, and I enjoy it more and more. There is never a dull moment on this trip. In fact, there are many laughs. Next year when I attend the Costa Rica Open, I will speak more Spanish, tan only with sunblock, and I will dance even better. And I will learn the cumbia!

— *Sally More*

Our trip to the Costa Rica Open Dance Festival 2012 was so much fun this year! From the beaches to the volcano to the incredible dance competition, it was all very personal and catered to all of us. Eliecer, Rebecca, and their family made sure that our time in Costa Rica was memorable, and welcomed all of us just like we were part of the family. We cannot wait till next year!

— *Bernt and Deanna Groberg*

The Costa Rica Open Dance Festival 2012 somehow managed to surpass the success of 2011. My fellow dancers (students) agree that we are thrilled to be part of such a great event and thankful that we found such a great group of people to travel together. If you have ever thought about coming to Costa Rica, here is your chance to make it happen. You will love it! I am sure next year we will be there dancing even more. Most of us can't get enough, especially when we are together on this fun trip. If you want to take a vacation next winter, Costa Rica Open Dance Festival is a great choice. Feel free to contact Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas at E.R.V. Dance Studios.

— *Kristie Brennerd*

My Star of the North Adventure

By *Stephanie Sedarski*

My journey to Star of the North DanceSport Classic began at the start of this school year when I joined a youth ballroom dance class at Dahl Dance Center with hopes of becoming a better dancer. I didn't have much experience dancing except for a few years of ballet when I was a toddler and the choreographed dances that I had done in musical theatre productions. All I knew was that I loved it and wanted to learn and do it as much as I could. Five months later, competition day finally arrived. At 3:30 a.m. the alarm went off, and my friend and I made ready for the day of dancing we had before us. We left Rochester at 5:00 a.m. to arrive at St. Louis Park ready to dance at 7:00 a.m.

It was nerve-racking trying to understand the protocol.

“Do we just practice until 8:00 a.m.? What's a heat? When's my heat? Is my partner ready? Does he know what's going on? Where's on-deck?”

These questions spun around, making the butterflies in my stomach flutter even more. When my first heat was announced, I stood on deck with my partner, remembering everything my teacher had said.

“They begin judging you even before you step on the dance floor. You are being presented. Have fun!”

My partner led me out to the floor, and we stood apart ready to dance. The music started, his hand extended toward me, and we began dancing. All I could feel was how excited and nervous I was. I made sure to follow my partner and show everyone how much I was enjoying it with the blatant smile on my face. 90 seconds later, the music stopped, he spun me out, and we bowed. I remember thinking, “That's it?” It had gone by so fast! The next thing I knew, I was walking up and collecting a first place red ribbon. It was such a thrill! I couldn't wait for the next heat!

At 4:45 p.m., two fourth place certificates, three thirds, one second, and 18 first place ribbons later, my day of dancing ended. My feet were sore, my back ached, and my neck had a kink in it, but I had learned so much watching more experienced dancers, hearing some of their feedback, and solidifying my own routines in my head. It was a fantastic day!

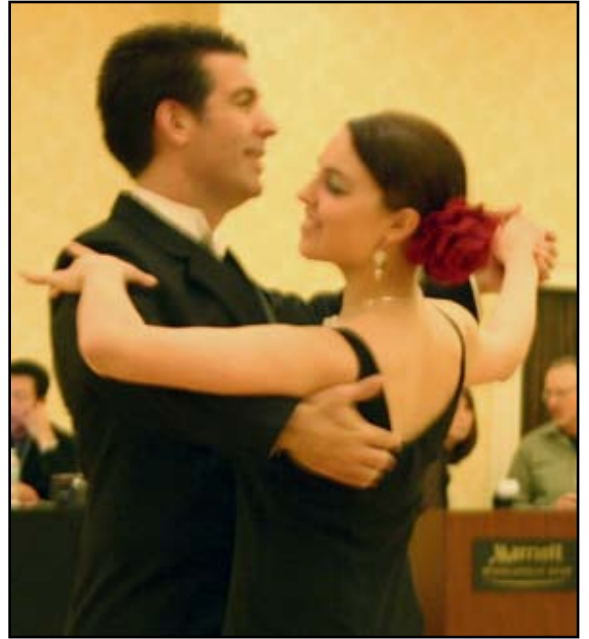
I plan to keep dancing as much as I possibly can, whether it be in classes, shows, or even in college. I adore every minute of it and will take any opportunity that is presented. I never want to stop dancing! ■

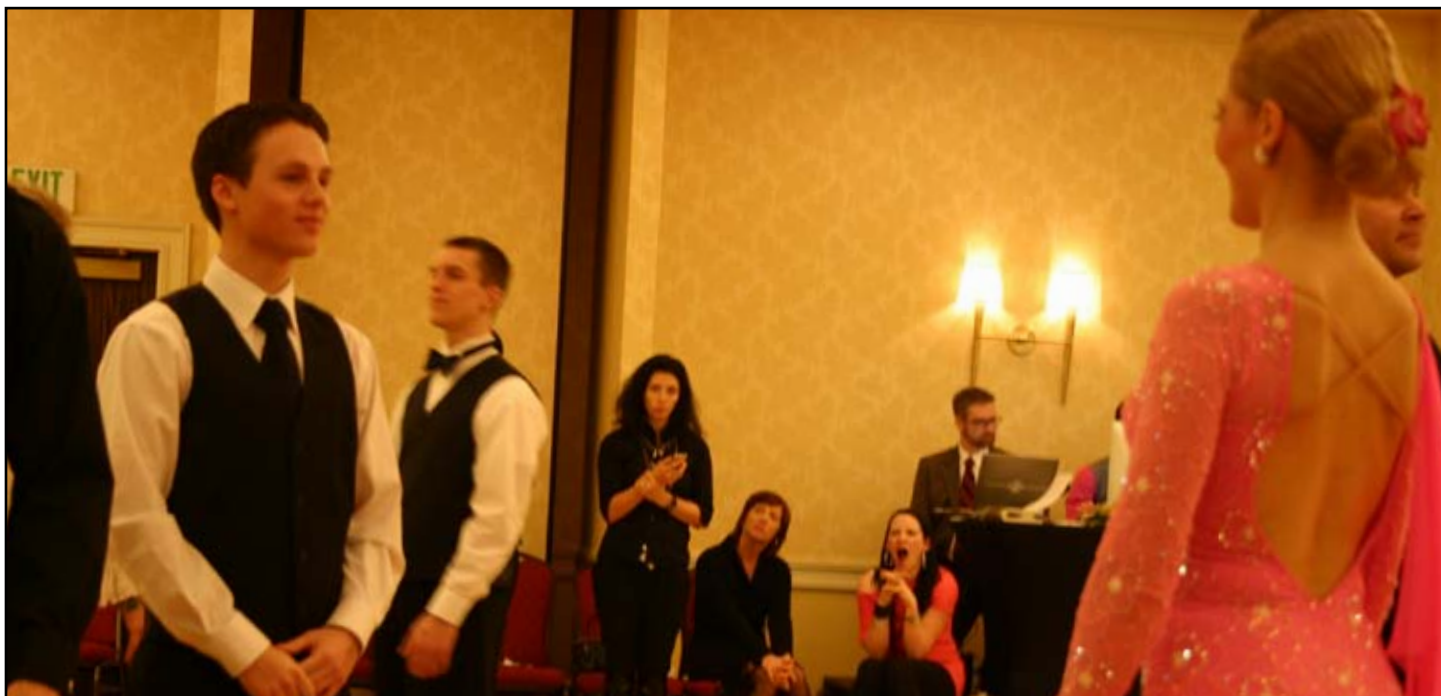




2012 Star of the North DanceSport Classic







Risk and Balance

By Elizabeth Dickinson

I've been going back to basics with my silver choreography, focusing on using the standing leg to thrust onto my traveling leg. Sometimes I really wobble when I land between counts one and two.

"Your balance lives much further out there than you think," said my teacher.

I used to think of balance as finding the "still" place. It works that way with yoga. If you've ever done tree position, standing on one leg with the other foot off the ground, you'll know what I mean.

But what does finding and keeping balance mean when you're in motion?

So I take a risk and thrust further using my standing leg. Aha! I *am* more balanced for an instant. Then I fall.

Life is like that. One of my life goals has been to maintain balance. I've also taken risks in my life, including a few crazy-sounding ones. Risks are anathema to stillness. They force you into motion. The risks I took really threw my life out of balance. To strive for something new meant other areas of my life couldn't stay the same.

There is a pattern known as "The Hero's Journey." In almost every story, the main character has to do something different in order to achieve her goal or to grow. She leaves

her home, her comfort zone, her safe world. Everything goes out of balance. But the risk can pay off. When she returns, she has new knowledge, which improves her life and sometimes the lives of others. It expands her way of being in the world.

So I take another risk and thrust further using my standing leg.

Whoops, too far. The only reason I haven't fallen is because my teacher is there. Thank goodness for the Wise Mentor archetype. Think Yoda in *Star Wars*, the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, Pat Morito in *The Karate Kid*—or your favorite dance instructor.

Okay. One more time.

For an instant, I am in the perfect place. I articulate my foot into a relevé on count two. My head and body turn, no, *expand* higher than ever before. I am a bird carried by a current of air ... and then my traveling leg brushes my standing leg. The traveling leg gracefully accepts my weight. The two count becomes three.

And the following steps become easier.

Risk. Balance. Finding new balance in motion.

My balance lives much further out there than I think.

Elizabeth Dickinson is a dancer and life coach in the Twin Cities. She can be reached at <http://elizabethdickinson1.wordpress.com> ■

Danceland

Chapter 14

By Lester Martin

"When we lower into our knees, we allow gravity to assist us as we move across the floor. Using gravity in this way will take you farther than simply taking bigger steps."

Bronze International Waltz, our second class. Kristina was droning away about knees, ankles, heels, and toes and how they all work in harmony to produce beautiful dancing.

Cassie and the kids in the back studio were choosing the music for the upcoming recital. Madonna was belting out "Papa Don't Preach." Great song.

Jason and Melanie were working grimly on a particularly difficult bit in their foxtrot routine. At least *someone* was dancing. Melanie's tweed-suited companion was working on a *New York Times* crossword puzzle. In ink, as always.

Ned and Ilsa listened to Kristina's every word as if their lives depended on it. Definitely hoping to achieve teacher's pet status. Jens and Annette were watching closely as Kristina demonstrated her points. Annette looked totally confused. She kept glancing at Jens like a lost puppy and shifting from one foot to the other. Jessica managed to hang in there for the first few minutes. After that, her gaze drifted out to the parking lot. Her head bobbed up and down gently as Madonna declared repeatedly that she was keeping her baby.

Suddenly Kristina stopped talking. Then she smiled politely. "Please excuse me," she said. She opened the door to the back studio and poked her head inside. A few seconds later, the volume level on the music dropped by at least 50%, and she closed the door again.

"I apologize for the interruption," she said. "Where was I?" "Listening to our feet," Ned offered eagerly. What a suck-up.

I wasn't exactly enjoying Kristina's monologue on our lower extremities, but it wasn't bugging me like it did the week before. In fact, it was somehow comforting. Not just the lecture, but the whole dance studio experience: the contemplation of human bodily movement ... the struggle to achieve athletic excellence ... Madonna. It all had a purity and an innocence that made me feel at home in a way I hadn't felt since I was a kid.

The day after the first class with Kristina, I was not so happy. Bronze International Waltz just wasn't for me, I'd decided. But what was my next step? I could switch to a different class, but what about Jessica? Should I invite her to escape with me, or venture out on my own? Should I start working on a cha cha routine with Cassie?

It was Tuesday, so my friend Jerry and I were enjoying freshly baked rugelach at Lazar's Bakery and Hardware

Store. I explained my dilemma to Jerry, but he seemed much more interested in the rugelach.

"Look, Cordell," he said, pouring himself some more tea. "You got into this dance class thing so that you could go out *dancing* and meet women, right? Remember?"

"Sure, I remember."

"Okay. So how many times have you gone out dancing?"

"Well, let's see ... not counting the time you and I went to the country-western dance ... that would be approximately ... zero."

"Don't you want to meet women?"

I had to think hard about that one. I wasn't at all opposed to the idea of meeting women and perhaps even keeping company with one of them, but I also had to admit that the whole enterprise had lost some of its urgency.

"Hey, I just had a nutty idea," he said, smiling wickedly.

"Why don't you take *me* to a dance?"

"Because I find you unattractive."

"Not as a date, moron. I meant: let's go to a *ballroom* dance. I've never been to one of them."

"How many ballroom dances do you know?" I asked.

"Well, I'm not an expert like *you*, Ballroom Boy, but I do know some salsa and some swing. And a little waltz. And what I may lack in skill, I can make up for in charm."

So that Saturday evening, we met at the Topline Dance Studio for their monthly ballroom variety dance. For me, the word "studio" means a small, intimate space. Topline was more like a warehouse. In fact, it occupied a converted and very tastefully decorated factory building in the commercial/light industrial section of town. The lustrous birch floor was big enough for an international convention.

I looked around but couldn't find any faces I knew. Actually, I was looking for one face in particular but didn't really expect her to be there.

50 or 60 dancers showed up for the pre-dance waltz lesson. Our host and instructor, Jason, was a Topline staffer, a neatly dressed young fellow with tiny feet, spiky red hair, a two-day-old goatee, and a tummy that protruded just a little over his belt. His partner, Madeline, was another Topline teacher. Her shoulder-length hair was raven black, her golden skin was satiny smooth, and her eyes were the color of bittersweet chocolate. Her face was a delicate blend of Asian and European features. The coral-colored silk dress she wore was clingy enough to show off her slender frame and short enough to show off her sleek legs. She probably modeled swimwear when she wasn't teaching ballroom. I glanced over at Jerry. He wagged his eyebrows at me.

Jason and Madeline showed us a tasty little silver waltz amalgamation that looked suspiciously like the silver

Free Sunday Dance Classes!

Sponsored by USA Dance - MN



When: Starting in March, every Sunday at 2 pm

What: Project Dance Minnesota is about providing quality ballroom dance instruction – each month will have a designated dance taught by a professional instructor

March's Dance: American Cha-Cha

Instructor: Shinya McHenry

Cost: FREE!

Where: Dancers Studio

415 Pascal Street North

Saint Paul, MN 55104

651.641.0777

*Location in future will change each month, as will instructor

Questions? Email info@usadance-mn.org or contact a USA Dance Board member

foxtrot material I had learned in Brian's class: twinkle, open right, lady's underarm turn with outside pickup, and repeat. Just the thing for going around corners.

Then we got the dance rolling with something called a "Foxtrot Mixer." It sounded like fun until I realized that each couple was expected to dance the entire length of that enormous ballroom. I knew two walls of silver foxtrot figures, but they were arranged to fill a small rectangular space, not a mile-long runway. So I watched the other couples to see how they would manage this little navigational puzzle. Most people putzed along as best they could, occasionally getting stuck in the middle and bumping into other couples. Eventually, they made it to the far end, had a good laugh, said their thank-yous, and got back in line.

Then there were the hotshots, the expert dancers who sailed proudly along, maneuvering effortlessly among the slowpokes and executing figures that took my breath away. Their partners also looked a little breathless and wide-eyed, which told me they were doing things they weren't expecting and had never been taught. Sometimes the hotshots got carried away and other dancers had to stop short to avoid being trampled. It was getting dangerous out there.

By the time I got to the head of the line, my knees were shaking and my armpits were damp. I felt like a man about to go over Niagara Falls in a very flimsy barrel. My first partner was a pretty young blonde wearing a bright green party dress. I might have mentioned my name. I have no recollection of hers. We got into position and I skootched us around until we were facing diagonal wall.

To my utter astonishment, we got through the twinkle fairly well. Same for the open right turn and the spin twinkle. Maybe she had studied silver foxtrot at the Happy Feet School of Dance. My long wall of choreography took us about halfway down one side of the room. Then it was time for the short wall, so I did my man's underarm turn, and we started moving across the floor, heading straight for the men's line.

As I was trying to decide what to do when we got there, a very tall couple flew in front of us, turning rapidly in a counterclockwise direction. As we passed them, I saw the man's arm swing toward our heads and miss my partner's nose by an inch. Then it slammed into my jaw. My glasses went flying and I crashed to the floor like a sack of potatoes. My partner helped me up and dusted me off. The other guy apologized profusely while his partner retrieved my glasses. After a few seconds, the little white spots before my eyes had cleared up, and we got back into dance position. I checked for oncoming traffic and long-walled us directly to the back end of the ladies' line. I thanked my partner and apologized for the accident. Then I ducked into the men's room for a little time-out.

When I returned, everyone was waltzing. I decided on a tactical retreat to the refreshments table where I could observe from a safe distance.

The hotshots were really flying. Except now they were dancing with ladies who had no trouble keeping up. These godlike couples swooped and swirled from one end of the vast floor to the other. Sometimes they would dance into the center and strike a stunning pose. Now and then they were obliged to thread their way through the crowd, but in general, the slower-moving couples stayed out of their way. The hotshots had firmly established their dominance.

I spotted Jerry dancing with Madeline. Nothing spectacular, just a simple box step with an occasional quarter turn. They were both smiling and laughing. Dancing *and* carrying on a conversation—wow! Where did he learn to do that?

After a few minutes, the waltz music faded and a rumba started up. I figured the hotshots couldn't be much of a threat during a rumba, so I started looking around for someone my size. Then I noticed a tall, stunning brunette sashaying seductively in my direction. It was Madeline, and she was staring straight at me. She stopped a few feet in front of me. "I'm Madeline," she purred. "Would you like to rumba?"

"Hi," I said, as my mouth went dry and my legs went rubbery, "I'm ... Cordell. Did you say rumba?" She smiled and nodded, so I walked her to a quiet spot on the floor. We got into position and I started my boxes. She was smiling serenely and gazing steadily into my eyes. Her coral eye shadow matched her dress, and she smelled of jasmine. And she had that rumba hip motion thing down cold. Oh, my goodness, did she ever. A minute or so later, I realized we were still doing boxes. It was time for ... *what?* What were the other rumba figures? Hmm. I couldn't recall any of them. *Hey, Brain? Hello? What comes after the box in rumba? Anything? Hello?* Evidently, my brain had shut down due to sensory overload. I couldn't even remember how to rotate the boxes. I had turned into the world's first rumba zombie. Cordell McEvoy, dancing dead man. Madeline's smile began to wither, and so did my hopes of becoming a dance floor stud. Eventually the music faded. I thanked Madeline and took off before she could reply.

Next up was another foxtrot. My jaw still hurt from the first foxtrot, so I sought refuge by the refreshments table once again. Two glasses of sugary punch later, a cha cha started playing. I scanned the crowd, but my favorite cha cha partner still wasn't there. I considered asking Madeline for a consolation dance, but decided I should quit while I was still in one piece. I found Jerry, made up some excuse, and went straight home.

The following Monday evening, I was back in class, learning to communicate with my knees, ankles, heels, and toes. Social dancing would have to come later, maybe when I had achieved the seventh level of transcendental enlightenment. When you can take the pebble from my hand, Grasshopper ... ■



The Dance Extravaganza

WHERE YOU COMPETE AGAINST YOURSELF!

Saturday March 10

Dance Showcase

Perform in front of a local crowd and get constructive critiques of your dancing by world class judges. All Pro/Am and Amateur Couples are invited!

Dinner, Social Dance and Show

Featuring World and US Rhythm Champions

Decho Kraev & Bree Watson

Social dancing and Professional dance show by champions Decho Kraev and Bree Watson. Have a great time at this fun celebration of dance!

Sunday March 11

Dance Technique Seminars

Taught by Decho Kraev & Bree Watson

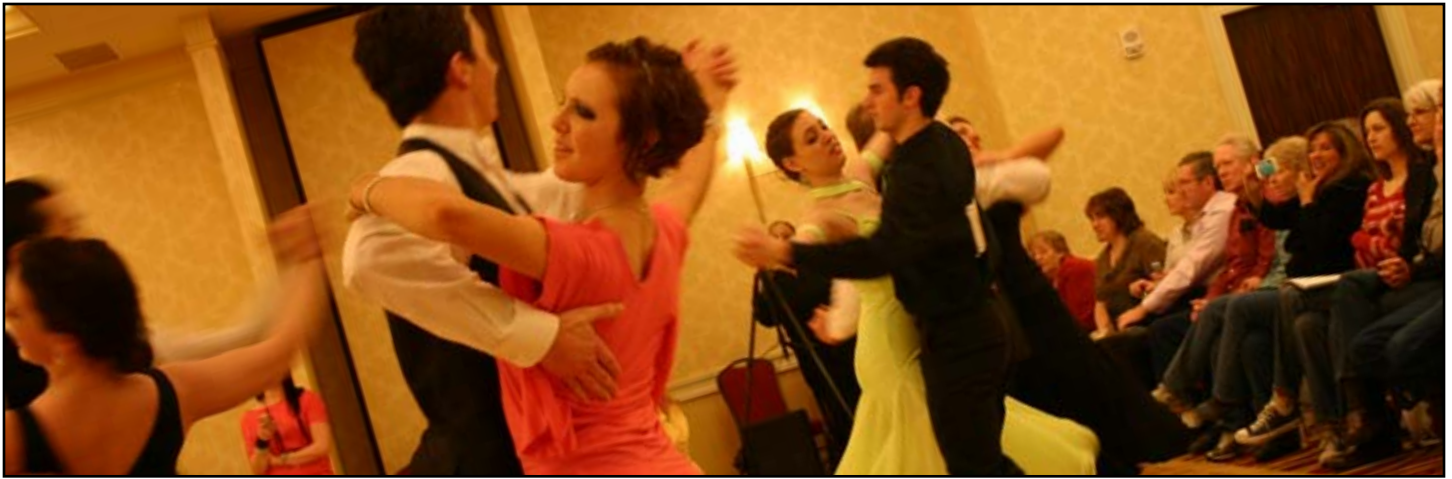
Visit our website to register and for more details!

THEDANCEEXTRAVAGANZA.COM

Cinema Ballroom

1560 St. Clair Avenue • St. Paul, MN

651-699-5910



Star of the North, a Retrospective

By Cathy Dessert

It's the Monday after Star of the North, and I am collecting thoughts about what it has been this 15th year. There have been the new things and those that haven't changed and the things that we have lost, never to return.

This year we had a new venue, the Minneapolis Marriott West. The place was very pretty. It had great changing accommodations, rooms to stay in right there, a Caribou, a practice floor, and if you tried the restaurant (I did), great food! It was bigger than our previous venue, the Ukrainian Event Center, but because of the great response by the competitors, it was totally packed! We'll be looking into an even bigger space next year. Thank you, competitors, for competing, and thank you, spectators, for squeezing in to watch our excellent dancers.

We had a new Chair, Jessica Madson. She cooked up (literally, at times) an event not to be missed! And this was her first run at it, folks! In case you didn't know, the sweet treats for sale were her handiwork, keeping her up late every night baking. Aside from her day job and two side businesses, she dances standard competitively with Nic Westlake. This pair coaches Eau Claire's Blugold Competitive Ballroom Team and recently has started pairing up with Jeremy Anderson and Yuko Taniguchi to teach the dancers of the University of Minnesota - Rochester.

Nic's role in Star of the North this year was paramount. Not only did he completely design, implement, and run Verseng, the competition software used at the event, but he was the person on the other end of the Star of the North contact form. Further, he built the Star of the North webpage. Thank you, Nic, for your stunning demonstration of volunteerism. It's only a shame we couldn't see you and Jessica dance.

Another first in this year's lineup of volunteer staff was the registrar, Mary Beth Beckman. She single-handedly crunched out those registrations, prepared envelopes, and

ran the registration table, keeping her witty and cheery disposition the entire time! Kudos and hugs, Mary Beth!

Saturday evening brought a little surprise, unrelated to dancing ... or so I thought. We had a visit from the Winter Carnival Royalty. They knighted Jessica, so now you can call her Dame. Great fun! Not unrelated to dance either—Sam, the pillow guard, was wearing a number. Did you see it? And Jason, the North Wind, can dip. I saw him dip Klondike Kate in the hall!

Everyone knows we would never make this event happen without the work of the volunteers. Mike Jones pulled it all together this year. When he wasn't handing out duties at shift changes, he was spinning tales of Star of the North past to new faces who had never worked this event. **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS**, for your contribution! [Editor's Note: I usually edit all caps into italics, but in this case, I think volunteers deserve a little garish love for all their excellent work.]

I saw you volunteers in the coat check, at the door taking tickets, writing all the scholarship checks (I'm talking to you, Miss Jane), doing the floor, decorating, handing out the awards, keeping the competition flowing at the on-deck area, explaining the results screen to competitors, and running errands for those strapped to their stations. A special shout-out to Luther College, who after competing all weekend and still having to travel home, stayed to help us tidy up. And thank you to all the unofficial volunteers who asked how they could help on their downtime. You are all very appreciated. If I missed anyone, I apologize.

Many thanks to our donors who made all the dance scholarships possible. Your contribution lit up a good many young faces. It was great to see vendors selling their dance-associated wares. Thanks to the workshop teachers who came in to share their knowledge of dance. A giant thank you to Shinya McHenry and Chris Kempainen, our MC and DJ, for their excellent stamina and ability to put on an exciting show. Thanks to the officials and judges who put in those long hours picking and awarding the best and brightest.

When Joyce Thompson awarded the Pete Maki Scholarship, I remembered the past. Pete played glorious music for this event and many others for many years and gave us countless hours of time in the furtherance of ballroom dancing. I was also touched by the remembrance of the North Dakota students recently lost in the vehicular tragedy.

I believe (sorry if my memory is wrong) that Mark Tepley chaired the first Star of the North with something like 14 amateur couples. Well, things have changed.

It's taken me a day to come down from the noise and energy created by the collegiate competitors. You are all amazing! And you sustained this for the whole competition, right to the end of the Jack and Jill. It was so much fun! I know the support for this comes from the parents, family, friends, and coaches. I spoke with many, and I thank you

all for supporting your kids. They are great because of you. I am so happy to see the devoted and married couples that dance together, some for so many years. Thank you for the pleasure of that.

Let me not forget the *great* dancing—yes, championship, super-duper dancing—that you can see at this event! Wowza!

So what it all amounts to is: did you have fun? From the many smiles I saw, I imagine the answer is yes for a great many. And for me it is: did I dance better than the last time I danced? And, yes, I did.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you next year. I'm excited to see how you all will have changed. And now we begin planning for all of you to return for the 16th Star of the North on February 23rd and 24th, 2013! ■

Beyond Ballroom Dance Company - 2012

A Review By Kate Bratt

I saw Beyond Ballroom's new show debut at the beautiful Cowles Center. Here's what I learned:

- I have a dance crush on Scott Anderson.
- Wait. No. I have a dance crush on *everyone in the show*.
- Christine Hallberg wore the hottest dress in the world in Night and Day. I will be taking donations for the purchase of it for her.
- Deanne Michael - pretty. More on that below.
- If Julie Jacobson-Kendall starts talking, you let her talk. And you let yourself be entertained.

This year's show is the best show of the company's in the last five years, in my opinion. With the quality of dancing, amazing production extras (neato video clips! funny slideshow!), great costuming (cute, ruffled jumpsuits! feathered, pink Ginger Rogers-type thing! brightly colored crinolins!), and entertaining choreography, it ranks number two, only behind my favorite Dinner for Seven from their debut season.

The show opens with Change of Hue where Ken Nordine's melodic voice over cool jazz is the background for some sassy color character studies by the dancers. Green? Hilarious. Off-white? She's not perfect, but she *is*. Red gives Jay Larson and Julie a chance to show their mambo skillz, and Yellow gives Christine, Julie, and Deanne something to fight and make-up about. The whole rainbow has a ton of personality *and* personalities.

It was the second-go for Change of Hue (it debuted at last season's show), and with more numbers (colors?) included, everything really fell into place. The dancers looked more

comfortable (jazz "timing" would be a bit difficult to count for *me*) and *finished* this time around. Bravo!

Next up was Matchmen, choreographed by Donna Edelstein, a look at internet dating and the *interesting* pairings that arise. Deanne was the featured dater, looking for love on the interwebs. Anytime she hits the stage, I just think "Pretty." A) She's not bad to look at, and B) everything she does seems effortless. Whether it's keeping up with man-on-the-go Todd Paulus, enjoying the attention of ladies' man Charlie Hardcastle (touch his arm, I dare you), or fending off the slightly-desperate Jay Larson, she's Pretty.

I loved the opening with a few cameos (in slideshow photo form) of local Man Dancers and thought Christine and Charlie's dance fling was hot (plus, I loved her skinny jeans). And way to go, Donna, on choreographing *funny*.

Last came Night and Day, the company's tribute to classic partner dancers like Fred and Ginger. Choreographed by Scott, it took the audience through many memorable songs and dances. I will now have "Slew Foot" in my head for about a month.

Eric Hudson and Shannon Rohne (the talented amateur understudy for Michelle Hudson, who recently had a very cute baby) did a lovely Fred and Ginger number. There was the fabulous Nathan Daniels lifting (I wanted to write "hoisting," but that would imply perceived effort, of which there was none) and being dreamy with Deanne for the actual song Night and Day. Christine grabbed Martin Pickering for a sharp and passionate tango.

And Meghan Anderson, daughter of Scott, danced a beautiful piece with her father that *might* have brought a tear to my eye. Oh, you Anderson family...

I feel like I'm missing a couple pieces, but you get the drift. It rocked. ■



Gentlemen Lead

By Jack Munday

I remember when I first started dancing. I felt amazement at dancers who have been on the ballroom floor long enough to move so gracefully. They inspired me to keep learning, be a better dancer. In that first year, I ventured forth to Minnesota Madness where my instructor, Monica Mohn, introduced me to performing. I also greatly admired instructors like Harry Benson, Scott Anderson, Jay Larson, and others who had many students performing at various levels.

I followed the traditional evolution—to showcases, competitions, a formation team at Cheek to Cheek. What more could there be? Then Fran and I went to a performance of Beyond Ballroom Dance Company in February of this year. Wow! Mariusz Olszewski, who I'm told made valuable suggestions during rehearsals, introduced the program.

The first act, Changes of Hue, had a humorous voiceover comment by author Ken Nordine on the colors shown on a large screen at the back of the stage. The two gentlemen and four ladies danced to Dave Brubeck jazz, teasing back and forth, answering the question, "If you were a color, what color would you be?"

The second act, Matchmen—a world premiere—had three gentlemen, very different from each other, answer to a lady's online dating ad. The tension between computers and jazz singer Nancy Wilson's music worked so well as the date-seeking lady meets and is challenged by the gentlemen, and those gentlemen turn to two other ladies. Written and directed by Donna Edelstein, the dancers floated

beautifully while also entertaining us with their presentation of the story. Another joy Fran and I found came during the intermission where we met dancing friends and caught up on travels and events.

The final act, Night and Day, also a world premiere, told a delightful story of contrast between the glory days of partnership dancing, showing film clips of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, among others, dancing in movies from the 1930s and 1940s. Some of the film was in black and white, and if you don't remember that, ask your parents what it was like. Produced and directed by Scott Anderson with co-director Amy Anderson, the dancing to "Now or Then," or "Night or Day," amazed us as we saw how much ballroom dance has evolved since those classic films were made.

When I first started, Harry Benson told me I had to learn how to stand on one foot for at least ten seconds. These dancers had such wonderful control, motionless in various attitude poses, with one foot on the floor. My favorite was the arabesque, with the body supported on one leg and the other leg extended behind the body with the knee straight. Every dancer was leaping and landing with grace and beauty. I have said in past columns that I have gone to the land of grace and beauty when a dance has gone well. It's still true, but now I see beyond my dancing. And isn't that what the Beyond Ballroom Dance Company is all about?

John S. Munday is a writer and lawyer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife Fran. Together they found ballroom dancing at Cheek To Cheek Studio. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn. Jack's new book, Beauty In Partnership, A Memoir of Ballroom Dancing, is available at www.johnsmunday.com and at several dance studios. ■

Competition Calendar

Mar 16 - 17, 2012

Steel City Classic DanceSport

Hosted by Rozana & Terry Sweeney of Art & Style Dance Studio in Pittsburgh, PA.

Mar 18, 2012

NJ DanceSport Classic "Spring Fling"

Organized by Wendi Davies to be held at Battista Dance Studio in Hackensack, NJ. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Mar 30 - Apr 1, 2012

2012 National DanceSport Championships

USA Dance 2012 National DanceSport Championships to be held at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, MD.

Apr 13 - 14, 2012

USU DanceSport Challenge

Organizer Adam Shelton & US Ballroom Foundation to be held in Logan, UT.

Apr 14, 2012

2012 Phoenix DanceSport Challenge

Hosted by Phoenix, AZ USA Dance Chapter #4033. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Apr 28, 2012

Quest For the Best

Hosted by Seattle, WA USA Dance Chapter #1004. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

May 12 - 13, 2012

Columbia Star Ball - NQE

Organized by Mark W. Tabor and Tiffanie Rhodes to be held in Portland, OR. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

May 18-19, 2012

Minnesota Star Ball

www.MNstarball.com

Jun 9 - 10, 2012

NJ DanceSport Classic "Summer Sizzler" - NQE

Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies to be held at Battista Dance Studio in Hackensack, NJ. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Jun 29 - Jul 1, 2012

Gumbo DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Louisiana Gumbo USA Dance Chapter #5031 in Baton Rouge, LA. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Jul 28, 2012

River City Ball

Hosted by Portland, OR USA Dance Chapter #1006. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Jul 28, 2012

Southern Star Mid-Summer Classic

Hosted by Southern Star USA Dance Chapter #6038 in Tampa, FL. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Sep 22, 2012

Quest for the Best

Hosted by the Seattle, WA USA Dance Chapter #1004. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Oct 5 - 7, 2012

Carolina Fall Classic - NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in Greensboro, NC. Qualifying event for USA Dance 2013 Nationals.

Oct 27 - 28, 2012

Northwest DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Seattle, WA USA Dance Chapter #1004. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Nov 2 - 4, 2012

Chicago DanceSport Challenge - NQE

Hosted by the Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

MADE FOR MOVEMENT

- * Used Ballgowns and Latin Gowns
- * Men's Smooth and Latin Wear Always in Stock
- * Custom Design Service for Twin Cities Dancers

Call for information or an appointment at 952-595-0003
Visit us on the web at: www.made4movement.com

Celebrating more than 20 years of Experience and Success!

Ballroom Dance Club



Presents

DISCO

Saturday March 3rd
7 'til 11pm

Come Boogie
at 308 Cooke Hall
1900 University Ave SE
(Enter through Rec Center)

Students \$7 / Non-students \$9
Lesson & Snacks Included!



RECREATIONALSPORTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

www.tc.umn.edu/~bdc

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

ASK DR. DANCE

Donna Edelstein is a popular coach, judge, and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition. Paul Botes is an accomplished dance instructor, coach, choreographer, and judge who has produced many nationally titled students and couples. He is an owner of American Classic Ballroom, located in Chanhassen, MN. Submit your questions to Dr. Dance: newsletter@usadance-mn.org.

Q I'm a follow. I enjoy going to social dances, but sometimes I feel uncomfortable when the same lead asks me to dance multiple times and I don't enjoy dancing with him. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but I also don't want to dance with someone who is hurting me or making me feel uncomfortable. I've also been told that I shouldn't give anyone any dancing advice because it will be taken as rude. So if I can't keep saying no and I can't ask him to do something differently so as not to make me feel uncomfortable, what can I do?



She said:

It's fine to tell a partner that you are there to dance with a wide variety of people. It's fine to tell a partner what you need—for example, "I feel most comfortable when the man's lead is more gentle."

In general, we want to be encouraging to our partners, but dancing is supposed to be fun.

If you are worried, uncomfortable, or afraid of being hurt, you won't enjoy dancing. The lady is never expected to be a doormat, just polite. Do what feels right to you.

Donna Edelstein donnawrites@msn.com 763 557-6006

He said:

You can decline dancing with him by saying something like, "I'm sorry, but I have a hard time following you, and it makes me uncomfortable."

If you continue to dance with a person like that, you are not helping them get better. If more ladies decline, maybe he'll get the message that he needs to improve his skill.

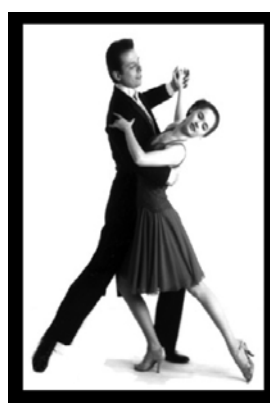
To those men who think that a "strong" lead is a good lead, let me inform you that no lady likes to be manhandled. Work on "firm" rather than "strong," and hone motion triggers like lowering rather than pushing, and you will be more successful. ■



Linden Hills Dancing Club
 South Minneapolis location
 Live ballroom dance band
 Catered dinner
 Free lesson prior to each dance
 For 2011-2012 calendar and more information, visit
www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

Grand Jeté
 651-227-0331 www.grandjete.com
10% OFF!
 one pair of ballroom shoes
 WITH THIS COUPON
 975 Grand Avenue, St. Paul
 Just 2 blks. East of Lexington
 Open Mon-Sat 10-5:30
 Tuesday 'til 8pm

Satin Stitches[®] Ltd
 DESIGNED FOR A SENSATIONAL PERFORMANCE!
 Social & Competition Ballroom
 Dance Costumes
 Also restyling, alterations & consulting
 Our retail location or your studio
 Call 763-323-9507 for appointment
www.satinstitches.com



StudioJeff
 Ballroom Dancing in St. Cloud
 Private and Group Lessons
 Dance Parties
Jeff@studiojeff.com
www.studiojeff.com
 320-266-4137
 701 St. Germain St. W. Suite 201

SWAPLINES

↪ **Contact Jean at 952-922-7425, Size 11 Silver 1.5 in heel.** Only used twice - \$60

↪ **Contact Mark at 612-701-8553**

For Sale: MENS TAIL SUIT, Custom-made by Arthur Ashmore Tailors in England. NEVER WORN! Made for 5'11"/165 Lbs. Alterations could be done.

↪ **Contact Anne @ 612.280.7818**

Everyone loves a blue gown and this one is a beautiful double-duty gown. American style or converts for International. Long sleeves, off-the-shoulder, lovely hem detailing that really shows movement, multiple shades of blue really pop. Made by Marsha Wiest-Hines. Sz. 6-10

Striking black and hot pink American style gown. Sexy while still being covered up. Feminine while still being bold and strong. Whatever your vision on the floor this one has it covered. Light weight and effortless to dance in. The bottom of this dress dances unbelievably taking your movement and showcasing it to the max. Made by Marsha Wiest-Hines. Sz. 6-10

↪ **Contact Jean @ 952-922-7425**

Ladies dance shoes size 11 narrow width, 1½" heels, silver. Only worn a few times. \$60.

↪ **Contact Jeff @ 320 266 4137 or jeff@studiojeff.com**

New women's dresses for sale \$200 to \$400 size small. Pics at www.studiojeff.com.

↪ **Contact: diana.fu2@gmail.com or 952-288-6159**

Latin, rhythm, salsa Dress, Size 0-6, brand new, piquant red color, sensual fringes show movement, open back with straps that can tie into various patterns, built in bra. \$380, negotiable.

↪ **Contact Cheri at 763-544-6724 or artcheri@aol.com**

Size 2-6 prices \$500-\$700 American smooth gowns. Contact Cheri for details and pictures.

↪ **Contact Stacie @ 612-251-8108 or SPIERSON0081@yahoo.com**

Purchase, rent to own or weekend rental available. Pictures available.

Seafoam green latin/rhythm dress. Short playful skirt. Includes matching bracelets, choker and ear-rings. Sizes 0-6. \$1,950.

Black latin/rhythm dress with bugle beads and Abs. Dress worn on

Dancing w/ Stars and in Take the Lead. Size 0-6. \$1,850.

Black Lace with peach underskirt smooth gown. Entire dress is lace, long sleeves, open back. Skirt slit in back. Worn on dancing w/ Stars. Size 0-6. \$3,150

Deep Purple rhythm/latin dress. Skirt has some movement. Sexy but covers your sides. Size 2-8. \$2,750

Fusia Smooth Gown. High slight on side, open back. Including jewelry.

Worn on Dancing w/ Stars. Size 4-8. \$2,350

Blue latin/rhythm dress. Full flowing skirt. Matching jewelry. Made for a larger chest. Size 6-8. \$2,450.

Black and Rose Print Standard Gown. Full sleeves, large floats. Size 0-4. \$2,950

Lady Supadance latin shoe, 2.5" heel, fits an American 5 ½-6, never worn, style #1066, sell for \$151 asking \$75.

↪ **Contact Theresa at theresakimlery@yahoo.com or 651-773-3511**

Size 2-6: Royal Blue Beauty Smooth Gown. Navy blue dress covered solid in rhinestones in different shades of blue. Gives an ultimate shimmer and looks almost royal blue on the dance floor. Fox fur cuff on left arm, long sleeves, slimming fit. Made by Randall Designs. Championship dress. Pics avail. \$2800.

Size 2-6: Black Elegant Smooth Gown. Black mesh peeks through an intricate overlay for a stunning look. Cobalt blue rhinestones, necklace, earrings complete the intrigue of this dress. Long sleeves, one arm with fox fur cuff. See photo in April 2010 issue, page 21. \$2400 pics avail.

↪ **Contact AnnaMaria @ 612-280-6869 or annamariagregerson@comcast.net** Retiring from competitive dancing, selling my gowns, rhythm dresses, and accessories. Wide variety of smooth gowns and latin dresses.

Princess White Championship Gown, beautiful white lace one-piece, chiffon layered skirt, multicolored AB stones with flower details, open back, accessories available, Marsha Wiest-Hines designed, asking \$1300.

Black smooth gown gives great movement on the floor. Open back, V-front straps, hand-sewn pearls, Swarovski crystals size 6-8, newly offered, asking \$1250.

Yellow smooth gown to Show your beautiful back, elegant, size 4-6, covered with Swarovski crystals, great movement on the floor, newly offered. asking \$1000.

Fuchsia rhythm dress (size 2-8) bell sleeves, open back, asymmetrical/slit open shows leg movement, AB stones, beautiful low back, accessories available, asking \$500.

Sexy-hot Yellow rhythm dress, stunning yellow with contrasting royal blue appliques, AB and Swarovski stones, you will be noticed!, accessories available, asking \$1200.

Light pink rhythm dress, bust covered in Swarovski crystals and sequins. For those who Dare to Bare tastefully. Open back, halter top, one of a kind. Asking \$1,800.

Gorgeous black rhythm dress, size 6-8, open back, really shows great legs, tons of AB and Swarovski stones, 3 layers of black hand-beading/asymmetrical, will be noticed. Asking \$1275.

Many more showcase gowns/dresses, and evening wear. Sizes 4-8, some 10-12. Gorgeous accessories to help you shine on the floor. AB and

Swarovski hair jewelry/earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings. Affordable.

Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net

Georgous Peach Championship Gown. This dress is one of a kind!

Beautiful open back, stretch satin skirt with godets add fullness to movement. Fully stoned bodice and elegant gloves to match! Like new! Made by Marsha Weist Hines. Size 2-8. Asking \$1200. Pics available.

Newly Offered! Beautiful Pink/Metallic Gold Smooth Gown. Very feminine look with lace trim on neckline, bodice, long sleeves and hems. Full coverage in AB multicolor stones! Like new - worn only twice! Size 2-8. Asking \$1100. Pics available.

Elegant Black Championship Gown, luxurious maribu boa on hem & neckline. Beautifully designed with open back and long sleeves, shows off curves. Covered in AB multicolor stones. Size 2-8. \$1100 obo. Pics avail.

Black Gown with Hot Orange & Yellow Accents. Stunning gown has fiery orange and yellows accents drapes on long sleeves, bodice and chiffon layers of skirt, sexy slit shows off legs, beautiful color rhine stones. Size 2-8. \$800 obo. Pics available.

Sexy Pink & White Rhythm Dress! This stunning dress has tons of stones, beautiful pearl beading & flirty skirt! Bracelets, necklace, and accessories included. A showstopper! Size 2-8. Asking \$700. Pics avail. More gowns available to purchase and rent. Payment plans accepted.

↪ **Contact Joan @ 6123864174 or jdazer@comcast.com**

FOR SALE: 1 pr DAnSport t-strap rhythm shoes, size 3 1/2 European; 2" flare heel worn approx. 10 times. Price: \$40.00; original price \$145.00.

1 pr Kelaci Eminence 3 rhythm shoes, size 5 1/2 European; 2

1/2" flare heel worn once. The Kelaci shoes are very very flexible. Price: \$75.00. Original price \$155.00.

Also one pair of nude court shoes with clear bands, size 7 or 7 1/2 American; 2". Worn less than 10 times. Price: \$50. Original price \$150.00.

FOR SALE: Designed by Doré. Beautiful Royal Blue Smooth Gown.

Size 6-10. Bodice is encrusted with blue and green AB stones. Long sleeves. Skirt has godets and moves very elegantly. The skirt is royal blue with a green underskirt. Earrings included. Original price of this gown was \$3800. Price slashed to \$1400.

↪ **Contact janislivi@msn.com for the following:**

Super sale on many ballgowns. Under 5'3" and 130 pounds? try these:

The Millenium Gown, Silver sparkle all over, white sheer netting on sleeves with AB stones, peridot stones, and crystal stones scattered.

Zipper entry. hand washable. asking \$300.

The Tangerine Dream Gown, neon tangerine color stretch lycra, swimsuit entry, AB stones, floats, hand washable. Asking \$125.

The Genesis Gown, neon yellow, orange roses, yellow stoning, yummy to wear, swimsuit entry, smooth/standard floats. hand washable. \$125.

May sell Pink Champagne Gown for the right price.

↪ **Contact Shannon xin9264@hotmail.com (651)230-8901(c)**

Design Dress by Vesa, One-of-a-kind dress yellow stretch velvet drapes elegantly in front and back. Covered in crystal and citrine rhinestones.

Large citrine rhinestones and other decorative beads accent shoulders and panel at front and back, beneath the waist. Also large gold paillettes on the panel. A fringe skirt in front and back creates movement. Sides open to show off lines. Matching wristband, headband, feather hair accessory inc.

Worn once by British prof rising star. Fit 0-6, 5'1"-5'5". Asking \$950.

↪ **Wanted: Tailsuit.** College student looking for a used men's dance suit or tail coat set, 6'0" 150#, approx. size 37L. Contact Andreas at 651-983-5348 or amantius@comcast.net

↪ **Contact Sherri Earley at 651-271-7690 or wwp2005@gmail.com**

Red salsa or Latin beginners dress. Can fit anywhere from a 2 to 6.

Adorned with black, silver & gold disc bangles. Comes with matching earrings & arm bands. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

Black beginners Smooth gown. Fits a ladies size small/2-4. Skirt is 3 layers. Red and silver stones. Optional black gloves can be included, \$10 extra. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

↪ **Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos**

Gently used International latin dance shoes, size 7.5, dyed beige strappy heels. Great deal at \$40 plus will throw in a free pair of fishnet tights!

↪ **Champion dance dresses, Jennifer Foster at 952-938-0048**

↪ **Contact Lisa Wu at 651-278-4434 or lisa_wu_us@yahoo.com**

Green & blue rhythm dress sz. 4-10 green body & skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 nego.

Purple & white Smooth Gown. Sz. 6-10, \$300

New Latin & Ballroom Shoes for sale, sz. 7, 8 & 9 \$40

↪ **Contact Bernice at 952.936.2185 or 952.545.2989**

DANCE SHOES FOR SALE: ladies' smooth-dance closed-toe pumps, size 8 or 8 1/2, flesh-colored, worn once, Capezio DanceSport brand, \$50, also some RHINESTONE JEWELRY available for sale

Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members and subscribers the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column. Submit Swaplines ads to newsletter@usadance-mn.org. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

Cinema Ballroom.....(651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN,
Dancing Fridays to DJ music and Every Sunday to Live music.
Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am. See website for details or e-mail info@
cinemaballroom.com

Classic Ballroom.....(763) 519-1314
www.classicballroomdance.com 4228 Lancaster Lane No, Plymouth
55441 (Four Seasons Mall – Cty Rd 9 west off Hwy 169) Dance parties:
1st & 3rd Friday of every month: 7:10 pm – two group classes (1 for
newcomers; 1 for bronze level and up); 8-9 pm party follows! Cost:
\$15/group & party, \$10/party only.

Club Salsero @ Cinema Ballroom.....651.699.5910
1st Friday Latin Dance Party, \$15 for lesson & party; students with ID
receive discount at door.

Dancers Studio.....651-641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 415 Pascal Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

E.R.V. Dance Studio.....952-303-3339
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343, www.ERVdancestudio.com

Fred Astaire Dance Studio.....651-451-6300
5300 S Robert Trl, Inver Grove Hts, MN 55077, www.FredAstaireMN.
com, invergrovemn@fredastaire.com

Liola-La Bodega.....(612) 823-2661
Lyndale & Lake Street, Minneapolis; Sundays and Mondays SALSA
and Latin Dancing Costa Rica-style; Brought by ERVentertainment &
Tico Baila (612-240-9053)

Loring Pasta Bar
www.loringcafe.com/pastabar Sunday nights have tango
or other latin music from 6-9 pm.

Medina Entertainment Center.....(763) 478-6661
www.medinaentertainment.com 500 Hwy. 55, Medina 55340.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club (651) 487-6821
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St.,
Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm.
\$5/WCS members, \$8/ non-members.

Naar Grille Salsa Night.....(952) 946-6227
11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night from 10
pm-2 am.

On Your Toes School of Dance.....(952) 928-7803
1st Sat & 4th Fri Ballroom Dances. www.onyourtoes.org and info@
onyourtoes.org 5810 W. 36th St., St. Louis Park, 55416.
Jeff and Cindy Nehrbass.

Rebels Swing Dance Club.....(952) 941-0906
www.tcrebels.com New location for dances: Social Dance Studio, 3742
23rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 1st & 3rd Sunday Dances; 7-10:30 pm; \$7/
members; \$11 non-members.

Rendezvous Dance Studio.....(612) 872-1562
711 West Lake Street, Ste B, Minneapolis, MN 55408 www.
theplacetodance.com

Social Dance Studio.....(612) 418-4046
www.socialdancestudio.com 3742 23rd Ave. S.,
Minneapolis, 55407

Suburban-Winterset Dance Club.....(952) 894-1424
www.suburbanwinterset.com

Tango Society of Minnesota.....(763) 576-3349
www.mntango.org Location for 2nd Saturday dances:
ERV Dance Studio, 816 Main St., Hopkins; Lesson 8 pm;
Dance 9 pm – 1 am \$10.

Tropical Ballroom.....(651) 414-0644
www.tropicalballroom.com 1750 Weir Dr., Woodbury, MN 55125
(inside Valley Creek Mall); James & Tricia Wood.

Universal Steppers Dance Club.....651-783-6619
www.universalsteppers.net MLK, 271 Mackubin Street, St. Paul 55102.
Thursday class 6-8 \$5. Tuesday practice 6-8 pm. Donations accepted.

Dance Contacts

Studios/Instructors

American Classic Ballroom, Chanhassen 952-934-0900
Paul Botes, Andreas Mantius, Natalie Palmer
Arthur Murray Dance Studio, St. Paul 651-227-3200
Scott Anderson 612-816-4444
Ballroom & Wedding Dance Studio, Minneapolis 612-371-0300
Harry Benson 763-843-2285
Gene Bersten 763-234-8656
Klaudyna Borewicz 612-203-9123
Champion Ballroom, Minneapolis 952-922-8316
Robert and Jennifer Foster
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids 763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul 651-699-5910
Jonathan Chen, Dustin Donelan, Michelle Hudson, Eric Hudson,
Kristina Lee, Kirsten McCloskey, Nadine Messenger, Shane
Meuwissen, Martin Pickering, Douglas Wallock
Dahl Dance Center, Rochester 507-252-1848
Dance with Us America 612-564-5483
Gene Bersten, Elena Bersten, Andreas Mantius
Dancers Studio, St. Paul 651-641-0777
Christine Hallberg, Jeff Halverson, Gordon Bratt, Kathryn Bratt,
Bonnie Inveen, Chris Kempainen, Troy Lerum, Maria LaNave-
Johnson, & Russell Hunter
Nathan Daniels 763-545-8690
Joy Davina 612-353-4445
Jennelle Donnay 651-357-2060
Donna Edelstein 612-910-2690
E.R.V. Dance Studio 952-303-3339
Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas, Rebecca Dahlquist-Eckhoff, Rachelika
Baruch, Will Weaver, Soodi Pessian, Alex Spencer
Four Seasons Dance Studio 612-342-0902
Rebecca and Bruce Abas
Fred Astaire Dance Studio 651-451-6300
Esther Granbois 612-872-1562
Lindsey Rebecca Hall 612-940-9546
David Hanson 218-722-0742
Julie Jacobson 651-261-6442
LaDanza Dance Club Stillwater 651-439-3152
Mark or Wanda Bierbrauer
Jay Larson 651-387-3886
Tom Larson 612-371-0300
Deanne Michael 612-508-9255
Monica Mohn 612-874-0747
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass 952-928-7803
Mariusz Olszewski 612-242-5159
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park 952-928-7803
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass, Elly Mae Toupin, Laurel Behning, Julie Delene
Todd Paulus 612-353-4445
Rendezvous Dance Studio 612-872-1562
Mary Rosenstiel 612-720-2584
Social Dance Studio, Minneapolis 612-418-4046
Joy Davina, Todd Paulus
StudioJeff, St. Cloud, Jeffrey Ringer 320-266-4137
Tropical Ballroom, Woodbury 651-414-0644

Services
Made for Movement: costume design, production, tailoring
(Marsha Wiest Hines) 952-595-0003
Oh Sew Special: tailoring, alterations, redesign
(Susan Richardson) 952-746-5539
Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear
(Deborah J. Nelson) 763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Clubs
Aqua Gliders Dance Club 612-869-3062
Café Bailar www.cafebailar.com
LaDanza Dance Club, Stillwater 651-439-3152
Linden Hills Dancing Club 952-412-7230
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club 651-426-8658
REBELS Swing Dance Club 952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota 651-783-3349
Universal Steppers Dance Club 651-783-6619
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter 651-483-5467

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

6130 IVES LN N • PLYMOUTH, MN 55442-1247

Yes! I want to receive the USA Dance MN Dancing Times newsletter!

Please send my one-year subscription to:

Name Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please mail your check for \$22 along with this form to:

Theresa Kimler, 7050 49th St. N, St. Paul, MN 55128 theresakimler@yahoo.com

Note: paying for a subscription is separate from paying USA Dance for your membership.



*Your one stop shop for
all your printing &
promotional product needs.*

**INTRODUCING
PROMOTIONAL
PRODUCT
SOLUTIONS**

- **WRITING INSTRUMENTS**
- **DRINKWARE**
- **APPAREL:
JACKETS, SHIRTS, HATS**
- **CORPORATE GIFTS**
- **TRADE SHOW GIVEAWAYS**
- **EVENT PROMOTIONS**

Bill Dessert 651-633-4600

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 10th, 2012